



LOUISIANA SENATE

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Contact: Sen. Hewitt

985.646.6490

hewitts@legis.la.gov

LOWER PEARL RIVER BASIN TASK FORCE FORMALLY SUBMITS COMMENTS TO THE CORPS OF ENGINEERS REGARDING MISSISSIPPI'S ONE LAKE PROJECT

Louisiana State Senator Sharon Hewitt (R-Slidell), Chairwoman of the Lower Pearl River Basin Task Force, formally submitted comments today on behalf of the Task Force to express concerns regarding the impact of the proposed One Lake project in Jackson, Mississippi on the Lower Pearl River. The Task Force submitted 55 pages of comments on the Integrated Drafted Feasibility and Environmental Impact Statement concerning the project to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the Rankin-Hinds Pearl River Flood and Drainage Control District (the District).

The One Lake project, formally known as the Pearl River Basin Federal Flood Risk Management project, is a flood control reservoir proposed by the District to be constructed by making significant channel modifications on the Pearl River to create a 1900-acre lake. The water level of the newly created lake will be maintained by a weir at river mile 284 and minimum flow requirements set during the permitting process will be maintained by a 12 x 12 gate within the weir.

"The Draft Environmental Impact Statement has failed to consider the adverse impact of damming the Pearl River on the water quantity and quality we need downriver to sustain a healthy ecosystem. I cannot support a proposal that neglects to model the entire Pearl River to ensure that Louisiana's concerns are addressed," said Senator Hewitt. "Many of these changes would be irreversible. We have to get this right."

To review the documents submitted to the Corps and the District, go to Sen. Hewitt's legislative page at -

<http://senate.la.gov/senators/senpage.asp?SenID=1>

In addition to Senator Hewitt, the Task Force is compromised of Representative Malinda White, Secretary Jack Montoucet from the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, Michael Ellis from the Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority, Keith Lovell from the Department of Natural Resources, Jeff Dauzat from the Department of Environmental Quality, Patrick Landry from the Department of Transportation, Councilman Perry Talley from Washington Parish, and Gina Campo from St. Tammany Parish.

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